

## *From a French Perspective*

Read the primary document, **THE ABASEMENT OF CONGRESS**, carefully looking for unfamiliar words and phrases. Then answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

<p><i>"The abasement into which Congress has fallen since the peace begins to arouse the attention of all true patriots."</i></p>	<p><i>"Indeed, the most pressing recommendations of this Assembly are treated by most of the States with an indifference that causes people less susceptible to taking part in public affairs to groan."</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ The "abasement" of Congress concerns Otto. What does this mean and why would he be concerned?</li><li>◆ Turn this statement into language clearly understandable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Who is Otto talking about when he writes about "people less susceptible to taking part in public affairs?"</li><li>◆ What appears to be the general mood of the country?</li></ul>
<p><i>"... it is desired... that this assembly be divided into two Chambers in order to prevent an eloquent and ill-intentioned member from carrying all the votes."</i></p>	<p><i>"The continual rotation of members of Congress... whose baneful effects are felt more and more; it is difficult for men who make a journey from one end of the continent to the other and who only stay a few weeks in New York to be familiar with affairs.."</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ In this sentence, to what is "it" referring?</li><li>◆ What are the "two Chambers" that Otto mentions in this sentence? What would be your reference point today?</li><li>◆ Knowing what you know about our government today, how successful was this proposal?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Explain the rotation of the members of Congress. Why is this a concern?</li><li>◆ What is Otto describing when he speaks of the difficulty of members of Congress journeying from one end of the continent to another?</li><li>◆ Has this difficulty been solved in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?</li></ul>
<p><i>"The Department of Finance has never been as destitute as it is at this moment, and one of the Commissioners has assured me that it has nothing more with which to meet current expenses."</i></p>	<p><i>"... much time and many negotiations will be necessary to have these defects corrected, and it is impossible to foresee the end of current difficulties."</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Why would the monetary status of the country be of concern to the French Government?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ What is Otto's opinion of the future course of the United States?</li></ul>